

Minutes

April 30, 2008

N. C. Board of Agriculture

Maurice K. Berry, Jr.

Roger D. Oxendine

Brent Fleming

Elbert R. Pitt, Jr.

William E. Holliday

Douglas I. Torn

C. Osmond Kearney, Jr.

Jeffery B. Turner

Kirk Mathis

Hyman Young, Jr.

Steve Troxler, Chairman

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N. C. Board of Agriculture

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The April 30, 2008 meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held beginning at 1:00 pm at the Kerr Scott Building on the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina. Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve Troxler called the meeting to order. The following Board members were in attendance: Maurice K. Berry, Jr., William E. Holliday, Kirk Mathis, Elbert R. Pitt, Jr., Doug Torn and Jeffery Turner.

Agricultural Programs Administrator Zane Hedgecock opened the meeting with prayer.

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The minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting will be approved at the next called Board of Agriculture meeting.

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The first item on the agenda was a referendum request by the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association. Mr. Bundy Plyler was called upon to present the request to the Board. The N.C. Cattlemen's Association requested approval for a statewide referendum on the question of an assessment of one-tenth of one percent of the sale price of the animal, with a cap of one dollar per head.

Mr. Plyler entertained questions from the Board and noted that the money would be collected by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and would primarily be used for promotion of North Carolina's beef industry.

MOTION was made by Billy Holliday and seconded by Bert Pitt to approve the request of the N.C. Cattlemen's Association. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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The next order of business was a report by Deputy Commissioner David Smith on Budget Requests and Outlook for the 2008 Legislative Session. Mr. Smith gave the Board members a packet containing the General Fund Revenue Report and a list of the Department's expansion requests. Mr. Smith explained that economic uncertainty may cause budget cuts for FY 2008-2009, including about \$400,000 in cuts for Agriculture. Mr. Smith also went through several of the Department's 17 expansion requests, including \$700,000 for Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation, and entertained questions from the Board. Before closing his remarks, Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Joy Hicks, Public Policy Analyst, one of the Department's newest employees.

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The next agenda item was a legislative update given by Ray Starling, General Counsel. Mr. Starling gave an introduction and overview providing the Board members with information regarding the study conducted by the Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly concerning the Agricultural Research Stations. After a brief history note about the Board of Agriculture and their duties as stated in the General Statutes, Mr. Starling called on Eddie Pitzer, Director of the Research Stations Division.

Mr. Pitzer described the structure of the Research Stations Division, highlighting details regarding each station and entertained questions from the Board.

Following Mr. Pitzer's overview of the Research Station's Division, Mr. Starling returned and gave the Board the history of the proposal to transfer the Research Stations from the Department to N.C. State University. The end result being that a new division within the General Assembly, the Program Evaluation Division, would study the structure and management of research stations and research farms.

Dr. Richard Reich, Assistant Commissioner, was then called upon to brief the Board on the Program Evaluation Division's process. Dr. Reich informed the Board of the initial meeting with the Program Evaluation Division and their subsequent interviews and correspondence with both Department and University employees. A draft report of their findings was released to which Commissioner Troxler, Dean Johnny Wynne of N.C. State University, and Dean Alton Thompson of North Carolina A & T University wrote response letters. The final report will be released to the Program Evaluation Oversight Committee on May 8, 2008.

After Dr. Reich's report, a ten minute recess was taken with the meeting resuming at 3:00 p.m.

Upon return, Mr. Starling discussed the release of the draft report and the legalities surrounding materials that are "confidential legislative documents." According to the State's Public Records Law, the Department is bound by law to release the document to any person who makes a public records request for the report.

Mr. Starling then called upon Joy Hicks to outline the draft report. Ms. Hicks went through the structure of the report section by section and outlined the Program Evaluation Division's findings. The report made several recommendations: to create a system of agricultural research facilities managed by the land-grant universities; to establish an advisory board consisting of representatives of NCDA & CS, NCSU, and NCA&T to oversee the system of agricultural research facilities; to conduct a comprehensive review to ensure that the system meets current and future research needs efficiently and effectively and; to implement a reporting structure to hold the system accountable to the public.

Mr. Starling returned and concluded the legislative update with the Department's position and response to the draft report. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services disagrees with the Program Evaluation Division's Report and proposal to transfer the



research stations to the land-grant universities.

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Commissioner Troxler opened the floor and lead discussion with the Board concerning the Program Evaluation Division's report and proposal.

Commissioner Troxler emphasized that disaster relief would be drastically hindered if the transfer takes place and noted that the transfer and sale of the lands goes against the "million acre initiative" the state has taken on.

Commissioner Troxler described his position and what type of role he would like the Board to take. The Board of Agriculture would be involved in strategic planning, meet with the deans of the universities and leaders of the commodity groups, look at budgets, and report their strategic plan annually to the House and Senate Ag Committees. General discussion of the idea among the Board members followed.

Mr. Mathis made the MOTION, which was seconded by Mr. Holliday to adopt an oral RESOLUTION that the Board opposes the transfer and sale of the Research Stations. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION was made by Mr. Holliday, and seconded by Mr. Turner, to move forward with a strategic plan. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Commissioner Troxler briefly reported on the Governor's Pesticide Task Force.

Going back to the Research Stations, Jeff Turner asked if a conservation easement could be put on all the lands.

MOTION was made by Mr. Mathis, and seconded by Mr. Holliday, to place conservation easements on state research farms based on staff recommendations. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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Mr. Mathis briefly discussed an issue involving the poultry feed additive, roxarsone.

MOTION was made by Mr. Mathis, and seconded by Mr. Turner, to request that the Attorney General's office not join in a request to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ban the use of roxarsone in poultry feed.

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Mr. Mathis made the MOTION, which was seconded by Mr. Turner, that the meeting be

adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT
4:49 P.M.

Recorded & Prepared by:
Christina L. Lucas

Adopted by the Board this 5th day
of September, 2008.



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner of Agriculture
Chairman



David S. McLeod
Secretary